

TALK ABOUT UNI!



The Parents' Uni Book: Exploring uni as an option for your child

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ESL: English as a Second Language.

FACULTY: Faculties are generally made up of several departments which organise the teaching and administration of the actual subjects in each discipline.

FEE PLACE: An enrolment in a university course where the student is responsible for the full cost of the fees. These places are not covered by a government subsidy. Fee places are offered in addition to Commonwealth supported places at many universities.

FEE-HELP: A Commonwealth Government loan program available to students enrolled in fee places.

HECS Fee: The charge incurred by a student enrolled in a Commonwealth Supported Place.

HECS-HELP Loans: These are available to eligible students enrolled in Commonwealth Supported Places. A HECS-HELP loan will cover all or part of the student contribution amount. HECS-HELP debt is recorded with the Tax Office. There are no loan fees charged on HECS-HELP loans, and these are repaid through tax.

MAJOR: The main area of study undertaken as part of a degree course. For example, a Science student may major in a variety of areas such as Information Technology, Genetics, French, Environmental Studies or Statistics.

OPEN DAY: Day when a university is open to the public and prospective students and parents are able to gather information, and talk to current students and staff.

PORTFOLIO: Collection of a student's work in a particular area of the arts, for example, painting or photography, which demonstrates their range of ability in that field. The portfolio is then used as part of the application/interview process for such courses.

PREREQUISITE STUDIES: Studies that must be satisfactorily completed by all applicants seeking admission to that course. These are listed in the VTAC Guide. Applicants who do not meet the prerequisites may not be considered for selection.

STUDENT LEARNING ENTITLEMENT: Australian students receive a student learning entitlement providing access to seven years of equivalent full-time study in a Commonwealth supported place.

TAFE: Technical and Further Education. Some institutions have TAFE as well as university sectors. TAFE courses are directly related to specific jobs and careers or apprenticeships and traineeships.

UNDERGRADUATE: Student who is undertaking study leading towards a first degree.

UMAT: Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test, which is a requirement for Australian students wanting to apply for health science courses at universities. The UMAT is held throughout Australia in July.

VCE: Victorian Certificate of Education.

VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre): All Australian students (and international students studying in Victoria) apply through VTAC for most undergraduate courses at universities. Other states have equivalent Tertiary Admissions Centres: for a full list, see your child's school or the section on 'Applying' at www.goingtouni.gov.au/

VTAC Guide: VTAC Guide to University and TAFE Courses, available online at www.vtac.edu.au and from careers advisers and newsagents.

YOUTH ALLOWANCE: A Government assistance scheme which covers students under the age of 25 years. The allowance is based on parents' financial situation, unless the student is classified as belonging to one of the Youth Allowance 'independent' categories. For more information regarding these contact Centrelink on 13 24 90 or www.centrelink.gov.au

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The University of Melbourne has endeavoured to ensure that material contained in this booklet was correct at the time of printing. Thanks to the students, parents and staff who gave so willingly of their time in contributing information and ideas. The aim of the booklet is to facilitate the transition to university of students who are the first in their family to attend university.

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INTRODUCTION

Parents and students are often confused and overwhelmed by the huge range of post-school options available. Parents have a vital role to play in helping their children understand these options and make choices about their future. Going to university is just one of the many pathways which also include finding a job or going to TAFE. This book focuses on university: its advantages, choosing and applying for a course, and what uni life is like. If you haven't been to university yourself and don't know much about it, it can be difficult to discuss the option with your child. Even if you did go, uni has changed so much in recent years that you might need to refresh your knowledge. We also provide a number of further resources so that you can look into areas in more depth if you wish.

Note: Since this book was produced in Victoria, we refer to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). If you are from another state, information about your local equivalent Tertiary Admissions Centre will be available from your child's school.

CHOOSING A PATHWAY

Why uni?

At the end of years of school, some students aren't so keen on the idea of devoting another three or four years to more study, but prefer the idea of starting work and earning money. This is understandable, but students should be encouraged to consider the benefits of a university education in both the immediate and long term:

- Better employment prospects, plus there are many jobs that require a university qualification
- Higher earnings: university graduates generally earn more than those without such qualifications
- The opportunity to study subjects that really interest them, rather than being restricted by the subjects available at school
- University's not just about study: there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in social, sport and other activities and most graduates will say that their best memories of uni life are of the fun they had and friendships they made.

How can I help?

Although the decision to go to university is the student's own, your opinion still matters to them and they need your support in working through that decision.

- Talk with your child about your own experiences
- Talk with your child about their interests. Help them to identify their strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes and find out how much they already know about possible pathways
- Encourage flexibility when thinking about pathways, such as exploring the range of occupations related to an industry they are interested in
- Advise your child to search resources at the school and on university websites, the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) Guide and VTAC website at www.vtac.edu.au and the Commonwealth government 'Going to Uni' website at www.goingtouni.gov.au/
- Encourage your child to use work experience to get a taste of the career a course may make possible
- Go with your child to university Open Days, where they can talk to current students and lecturers, gather information and get a feel for university life
- Find out if your child is eligible for one of the special entry access schemes to assist university entry for students who have had some form of disadvantage during their secondary schooling. See details further on in this book.

The VTAC online booklet 'Choice!' <http://www.vtac.edu.au/pdf/publications/choice.pdf> provides helpful information to work out the jargon and gives hints about how to research options and make decisions about which VCE subjects to study.

Which course?

Unless your child has a very clear sense of their future goals, choosing the right course can be very difficult. It's very important, since one of the keys to university success is choosing a course that matches the student's interests, goals and abilities.

Students appreciate their parents' advice and guidance while deciding on a course, so long as this does not become pressure to follow a particular path. Students are more likely to stay focused and motivated in their study when the final decision is their own and they know what they want to achieve.

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Your child should research any courses that interest them, including subjects offered, course structure and possible career outcomes. This kind of information is available from school careers advisers, career centres and universities. Perhaps your child will have the opportunity to take part in university experience programs while still at school, such as a visit to the university during semester time, to get an idea of what it's actually like to be at uni. This helps school students see the university in action and get a feel for their chosen course and the actual campus.

'Choose subjects in year 11 that you know you're going to like and see where that leads you.'

Current student

'The Open Days at uni were an invaluable resource in determining my future course of study'

Second year student

'I went by myself to Open Days and caught public transport so I could see how easy it was to get to each university. The Open Days were great because I got to talk to current students and lecturers. Importantly also, I got 'a feel' for each university.' **Recent graduate**

Types of Degrees

Students who begin a course of study at university will be studying at undergraduate level towards a Bachelors Degree, which generally takes three or four years full-time, with some courses—such as Medicine or Architecture—taking five or six years. At many universities, students can also choose a double or combined degree, which allows them to study two bachelor degrees at the same time and in fewer years than if they had studied the two degrees separately.

How important are 'prerequisites'?

Prerequisites are subjects which must be passed at year 12 level for a student to be accepted into a particular course. Some courses have no prerequisites, while others have very specific prerequisites and required grades in those subjects for students to be accepted. Students need to choose subjects in years 11 and 12 which will allow them to qualify for entry into any course that they think they *may* want to apply for. Prerequisites for each course are clearly stated in the VTAC (or equivalent) Guide and in university undergraduate course guides and handbooks (usually available online).

Students should keep their options as open as possible by not dropping subjects that may be required as prerequisites later.

'I enjoyed graphics and design, maths and science at school and I wanted to study a degree which combined these three disciplines. I had several ideas in mind during year 11, including medicine, science, engineering and architecture.' **Engineering/Commerce graduate**

What if they choose the wrong course?

Some students start university and then realise they've chosen a course that doesn't suit them, or their goals have changed. This doesn't mean they're stuck in that course: their options include completing the first year and then applying for transfer to another course, or deferring from the course for the remainder of the year to do some paid work or travel and take time to sort out what they really want to do.

'Time spent now (gathering information pre-enrolment) can save years of frustration, which could occur by not being in the right course.' **Parent of a year 12 student**

Which uni?

There are a lot of factors to consider when choosing which university to attend, including:

- **Availability of courses**
Some courses, such as Veterinary Science, are only available at a few universities. Others, such as Arts, Education, Nursing, Science, Engineering and Law are available at several institutions.
- **Location, distance from home, travel time and accommodation**
Campuses are located in city and regional areas, and students need to consider whether they need to move out of home to study and how long it would take to travel to and from the campus. Look into the availability of public transport or parking, and remember that full-time students can get transport concession cards to save a lot of money. If your child needs to move out of home, availability and cost of accommodation are other factors to consider.
- **Size of campus and its facilities**
Each university campus has its own facilities and atmosphere. Some of the smaller, regional campuses may have only a few hundred students, while the major city campuses can have over 40,000 students and several thousand staff. The larger campuses are like small cities, with their own banks, post office and shops. Some students enjoy the busy atmosphere of a large campus, while others prefer smaller universities that are easier to get around.

'I thought Melbourne was too far from home and that I'd be better at a uni close to home.'
First year student

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University websites are an important source of information about courses, admissions requirements and procedures, scholarships and access schemes. They often also have photos of the campus, advice for prospective students and current students' insights into university life. When searching for such information on a university website, look for terms such as '**prospective students**', '**future students**' or '**admissions**'. You could also search for 'transition', as many universities have Transition Programs providing advice for prospective students about what to expect at university and how to prepare.

APPLYING FOR COURSES

How do students apply for a course?

Students apply for entry through VTAC, as set out in the VTAC Guide. Many courses rely solely on the ENTER (Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank) score, but some also require an extra test or an interview. Usually courses such as music, visual arts or drama will require an audition or portfolio of work, which is combined with the ENTER. Details about how to apply for particular courses are available in the VTAC Guide, from the university or at school.

Note: Students applying for a range of **medical and health sciences courses** may need to sit the University Medical Admissions Test (UMAT), held each year in July. If a student is at all considering applying for one of these courses, they must sit the test to be eligible to apply. The UMAT will be listed as a requirement in the VTAC guide entry for relevant courses.

Course preferences

During year 12, students submit a list of their preferences for uni courses before finding out their final school results. Once the results are available, students can change their list of preferences. They may decide to do this if their ENTER score is higher or lower than expected. If the score is lower, they may look at other, more realistic, course options. On the other hand, if the score is considerably higher than expected, the student could apply for a course requiring a higher score, which they really wanted to do but hadn't thought they had could reach. Most universities hold a course information day for year 12 students in December, after results are published.

Students can list up to 12 course preferences through VTAC, including Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP)-based and full fee-paying courses (see below for an explanation of CSP and fee places). Students should list their preferences in order of the courses that they most want to do.

What are Special Entry Access Schemes (SEAS)?

Universities like to enrol a diverse group of students, so they offer places to students who come from backgrounds which are under-represented or where they have experienced some form of long-term academic disadvantage. This disadvantage could be living in a rural or remote area, having extensive family responsibilities, coming from a non-English speaking background, having a disability or coming from a school where going to uni has not been the norm. If your child fits in to one of these categories, encourage them to find out if there is a SEAS or equivalent at the uni of their choice. Information about the schemes is available via the VTAC guide or the university concerned.

These schemes are still competitive but in many cases they will allow entry to a student who falls just below the normal cut-off score for a particular course.

How are students selected for a course?

To be eligible for selection into a university course, secondary school students must have:

- successfully completed the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or equivalent qualification from another state, or the International Baccalaureate (IB)
- completed each of the prerequisite subjects for the course and any prerequisite tests or auditions
- achieved the required marks in each of the prerequisite subjects
- met the English language requirement.

Universities then rank students according to academic merit. For most school leavers this means ranked in order of year 12 results. The best qualified applicants are chosen first and selection continues until all the available places in the course are filled.

For detailed information on this topic refer to institutional publications on Tertiary Entrance Requirements and Principles of Selection, available from each university or view the VTAC website at <http://www.vtac.edu.au/>

What marks do they need?

The marks required for entry into courses vary from course to course and year to year, depending on student demand and the ENTER scores of the group of applicants. The Clearly-In Rank (CIR) of the previous year is a useful guide for making a realistic judgment about the chances of selection into a government-subsidised CSP-based course. The CIR is the score above which all eligible applicants were made an offer for the course. Many applicants, usually about 20% of places, are chosen below the CIR, in the 'middle-band'. Middle band selection criteria for each course are stated in the VTAC Guide. Not all courses produce a CIR during selection, as other criteria such as folio, interview or UMAT are used to select students in addition to the ENTER. These courses are listed as 'I', meaning individual offer.

ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLMENT

What happens next?

Offers of a place

There are three rounds of offers in the VTAC system. Most offers are given in the first round in mid-late January. Second round offers come out in early February and a small number of offers are made in the third round. The places available in the second and third rounds are places that other students have declined or deferred from the first round.

Irregular Offers

Irregular Offers provide students with their only opportunity to be considered for a course they have not listed in their VTAC preferences by the end of the Change of Preference period, or for a course listed lower on their list of preferences than the course they have been offered. See the VTAC Guide for full details.

Enrolment

Students may be able to enrol online or in person: the university will send instructions on what to do with their offer information. There can be a lot of paperwork to get through, so it's important to read these instructions carefully and follow all the steps. Depending on the course, the enrolment process may also involve meeting with a course adviser to help the student choose subjects.

'My parents were great. They supported me every step of the way in my decisions but didn't interfere. I was left to enrol and organise affairs on my own.' **First year student**

Can students defer commencing their course?

Students can apply to defer a place for a semester or a year but they need to check the rules for their particular course and university. Sometimes students decide to defer when they think they need a break from studying before starting uni. This kind of break can help them to develop in confidence and maturity and help them to succeed once they start their course, so long as they have a plan for what to do with the time off – such as working, travelling or undertaking short courses – instead of just sitting around aimlessly.

Deferment can also assist students to establish themselves as 'independent' and eligible to receive Youth Allowance. Contact Centrelink on 13 24 90 or www.centrelink.gov.au for further information.

HOW MUCH WILL UNI COST?

Fees

In their list of course preferences students can choose to apply for a combination of two types of fee enrolment:

- **Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs, formerly known as HECS)**
Students in a Commonwealth Supported Place pay a proportion of their course fees while the rest is subsidised by the government. The amount of the student's contribution depends on the course. Students can either pay their proportion upfront at the beginning of each year, or defer payment and pay it back through tax once they're earning a certain level of income. While the upfront payment offers a discount, most students choose to defer payment so that they don't have to worry about their course costs until they are working full-time.
- **Full fee-paying places**
Fee-paying places require up front payment of the full course fees each year. Fee-paying places are usually offered at an ENTER score lower than that of the Commonwealth Supported Places, so this is an option for students who just missed out on a CSP but may be willing and able to pay the fees. The fees vary according to the course and government loans called FEE-HELP are available to help with the payment of these fees.

For more information about current fees, refer to www.goingtouni.gov.au

Will there be any course-related expenses?

Course-related equipment can include things like textbooks, art materials or anatomy and chemistry kits. Courses sometimes include compulsory fieldtrips or excursions. All students need access to a computer and while having one at home is ideal, university campuses will also provide access to computer labs for students who want to work on campus or who can't afford to buy their own.

Bursaries are sometimes available to assist students with course-related costs – check with the university's Financial Aid Service.

Textbooks

Handbooks and course materials will list the required textbooks and reading lists for each subject. It's a good idea to wait until the first week of lectures to see what materials are absolutely necessary to buy and which can just be borrowed from the library. Students can also check department noticeboards for used books being sold by later year students. Some campuses have book exchanges or second-hand book stores on campus or nearby.

What about accommodation costs and other living expenses?

Most universities will provide information about the estimated annual cost of living for students in a range of accommodation types. For the most up-to-date information, see the university's Financial Aid in Student Services at Open Day or on university websites.

Accommodation

Living expenses vary greatly depending on whether students are living with their family, renting or living in a residential hall or college. Universities have student housing services to help students find accommodation, with a number of options available, three of which are listed below:

- **Renting**

Renting in a shared house is popular and can be a great learning experience in itself. It involves some financial planning to organise the establishment costs and the rental and bill payments. Students looking for new housemates will advertise on university and student union noticeboards.

- **College accommodation**

Some universities have residential halls or colleges either on or near the campus. Rooms are furnished, some or all meals are provided and public transport costs are greatly reduced. Colleges also have the advantage of providing an instant community and support for students in their first year. College accommodation fees only cover semester-time residence, so students don't have to keep paying for the accommodation when they return home during holidays.

- **Hostels**

Student hostels are popular with first year students who enjoy living in the company of other young people. (These hostels should not to be confused with backpacker hostels which cater for young travellers.) The accommodation is similar to that provided by colleges, as students live in a communal environment with students from other universities.

Is there any financial assistance available?

Most universities try to assist students who are facing financial difficulties. The university's Financial Aid service will provide advice about how to budget, what student loans and bursaries are available and how government schemes such as Austudy, Youth Allowance and Abstudy work.

- **Rent assistance**

Rent Assistance is available to students on Youth Allowance or Abstudy who live away from home, and some universities offer rent assistance bursaries. Students on low incomes may be able to borrow the bond money from the Office of Housing, under the Bond Loan Scheme.

Are there any scholarships available?

A variety of scholarships is available, with a range of benefits including tuition payments and living expenses. Most universities have specific scholarships for students who come from rural or other backgrounds which may have affected their education, and scholarships are often connected to access programs. Encourage your child to apply for as many as possible. Entry forms may be available directly from the universities concerned or be completed through VTAC.

Is part-time work a good idea?

Most students find that part-time work is a great way to earn some cash to help with the cost of living while at uni. It can also provide valuable work experience and form an important part of the student's resume. Most universities recommend that students shouldn't work more than 8-10 hours per week if in a full-time course, as working longer hours can interfere with study and being involved in uni life. Part-time and casual jobs are often advertised on noticeboards in Student Services or the Student Union.

Student Union membership

Students can choose to join their Student Union or Association, which is run by an elected group of students and provides services such as student welfare and representation, social activities, clubs and societies, publications, theatre and more. There is a monthly or annual joining fee which will give students free or discounted access to these services. Information about joining will be available during enrolment and orientation.

GETTING STARTED AT UNI

Students are not expected to manage the transition from school without some help and support. Apart from the obviously important support from family and friends, assistance can come in many forms:

Orientation programs

All universities offer some form of orientation for new students before classes begin. Orientation programs help students to meet others, find their way around, get their timetables and learn which textbooks and other course materials they need. Students should try to attend as many academic and social orientation activities as they can, with a wide range of activities for all interests.

Transition programs

Transition programs follow on from Orientation and provide opportunities for establishing a network of friends and helping students adjust to university life in general. Activities include mentoring programs, organisation of study groups, skills workshops and social events.

Student services

University campuses all offer student services and support. Students should be encouraged to access these free and confidential services if they need them and before any problems get too big. Services may include:

Health Service: often a bulk-billing medical clinic with staff skilled in the areas of concern to students. Students need their own Medicare card to access the service.

Housing/accommodation: information on housing options, emergency accommodation, share house notice boards, real estate listings and tenancy advice.

Financial Aid: information on loans, bursaries, Youth Allowance, budgeting and Centrelink.

Counselling: professional counselling for students, covering a wide range of personal and academic issues.

Careers and Employment: advertises part-time, casual and holiday jobs, and provides advice and resources on career planning, preparing a resumé, job hunting, interviews.

Disability Liaison: information and support for students with a disability or long term medical condition, including those with mental health issues.

Learning or Study Skills: assistance with improving skills in reading, academic writing, exam strategies, oral presentations and time management.

Indigenous Education Centre: support for Indigenous Australian students.

Chaplaincy: counselling, support and information for students of any or no religion.

Childcare: assistance with arranging child care for children of students.

*'If only I'd come to the Counselling Service when I first started uni!' **Current student***

LIFE AT UNIVERSITY

How does uni differ from school?

- **Independence**

Once students are at university they are considered to be adults responsible for their own learning. Your child will also be responsible for remembering due dates, choosing their subjects and doing their own administration. Course advisers and lecturers can give advice and support and information will be available, but students must learn to ask for help when they need it. Your child is also less likely to have set homework each night, and may spend far fewer hours actually in class, and more hours doing their own research and reading.

- **Size**

The first thing most people notice about universities in comparison with school is their size. While rural campuses may be quite small, most city campuses are very large and sometimes rather daunting. Most courses will have classes taught in more than one building and a day at uni may involve a number of brisk walks between sessions.

- **Academic staff**

Academic staff members – lecturers or tutors – are the teaching staff. They usually have titles such as Doctor or Professor, though most will ask students to use their first name. Many are leaders in their field of study and while they expect students to take charge of their own learning, academics are also willing to help students.

- **Teaching styles**

Students will be taught using a variety of methods, including:

- **Lectures:** usually lasting an hour, with a lecturer giving a presentation to a large group of students, who will be taking notes.
- **Tutorials:** these are smaller groups, led by a tutor, where students ask questions, discuss the subject, debate issues and work together on problems and projects.
- **Practical or laboratory classes:** these are held in courses such as science, engineering, health sciences, technology and also in visual arts, music, drama or architecture and planning. Students will be guided by a tutor or demonstrator.
- **Online learning:** many courses will have some online component such as access to lecture notes, electronic bulletin boards or learning exercises.
- **Job placements:** courses such as Education, Nursing, Psychology and Social Work involve placements of several weeks in the workplace, to put skills into practice.

- **Libraries:** students will spend a lot of their study time using the resources of the library, either in the library itself or accessing materials online. There may be more than one branch of the library, and students are encouraged to attend library tours and skills classes to learn how to use the resources.

A lot of students think that year 12 is the hardest year of their life and that university will be easy in comparison. While they're certainly under less pressure than in year 12, they should realise that the standard expected at university is generally high and they'll still have to work! The pace of work is generally much faster and more intense, so students may find it difficult to keep up at first, until they get organised and set up a study system that works for them.

ASSESSMENT

Forms of assessment

Courses will use a combination of assessment forms such as exams, tests, individual or group assignments, essays, tutorial attendance and participation, lab reports, prac exercises, oral presentations and performance in placements.

Some first year students are a bit disappointed when they receive their first results at uni, which may be a lower grade than they were used to receiving at school. Each institution has its own marking and grading system, and it takes a while for students to adjust to the new assessment styles. Most students will be reassured to find out what the average mark in the class was, so encourage your child to talk to other students and to ask their tutor for advice if they're not happy with their marks.

Results and grades

Results can take several weeks to become available after the final assessment has been completed. Results are given directly to the student: you can only find out the results by asking your child!

What if things go wrong?

If students' results aren't as good as they hoped, they can always ask the lecturer or tutor for advice about how to improve, or visit a service such as Learning Skills to speak to an adviser and learn some new study strategies. Universities understand that students have complex lives outside of university, so if personal issues or illness impact on study, there are processes in place like assignment extensions or Special Consideration. It's important that students contact their faculty office early if they need such support.

HOW DOES THE ROLE OF PARENTS CHANGE?

You may feel confused about your role in this new stage in your son/daughter's life, especially since it coincides with progression from adolescence to adulthood. The university treats its students as adults and deals directly with them. There are no parent-teacher interviews or newsletters and the only way you can know how well they're doing is to ask them yourself. Meanwhile, they'll be meeting a lot of new people, exploring new interests and learning about themselves, so it's understandable if you feel a mix of pride, shared excitement and perhaps some anxiety.

Be interested and make sure your child knows they have your support, but also be prepared to let go to an extent. If you sense that there is a problem that you can't help with, remember universities are full of support services and encourage your child to use them. Many universities' Transition Programs and Counselling Services will also offer advice for parents of new students, so look for their information on websites or at Open Days.

USEFUL TERMS

ABSTUDY: Abstudy provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in secondary and tertiary education. See Centrelink on 13 2317 or www.centrelink.gov.au for further information.

AUSTUDY: See 'Youth Allowance'.

BACHELOR DEGREE: The highest undergraduate award offered, normally resulting in detailed knowledge of a particular area and qualification for particular jobs.

CAMPUS: The location and grounds of a university.

CIR (Clearly-In Rank): The ENTER score for each course in a particular year at or above which all applicants received an offer of a Commonwealth supported place. This can be used as a guide as to the standard required for a Commonwealth supported place in the following year. Clearly-in Ranks do vary from year to year.

COMMONWEALTH SUPPORTED PLACE (CSP): An enrolment at a university which is subsidised by the Commonwealth Government. A student enrolled in a CSP contributes to the tuition fee for their course by paying a portion of the fees either up front, or deferred and then repaid through tax once the student is earning a salary.

DEST: The Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training, which is the department responsible for higher education.

DOUBLE/COMBINED DEGREE: A double degree allows a student to study two major bachelor degrees at the same time and in a shorter time frame than if they had studied the two degrees separately.

ENTER (Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank): Percentile ranking showing VCE students' comparative placement with the other VCE students of that year.



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